



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
(717) 787 3904
FAX (717) 782 4011

Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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APRIL POTATO STOCKS

HARRISBURG -- Total stocks of potatoes stored in **Pennsylvania** on April 1, 2000 were 560,000 cwt., 33 percent more than a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Of this amount, 145,000 cwt. were stored in processor's facilities, 26 percent of the total stocks.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Stocks may also include potatoes produced in other states. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past five years averaged 90.7 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.3 percent.

Storage of fall potatoes in the **15 major states** totaled 128 million cwt., down 3 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Stocks on April 1 accounted for 30 percent of fall production this year, 1 percent less than a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled 293 million cwt., slightly above last year and 5 percent above two years ago. March disappearance of 42.5 million cwt. was slightly above last year and 2 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 27.9 million cwt., up 2 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago.

Season to date processing usage totaled 146 million cwt., down 2 percent from the same period last year. March processor usage was 20.5 million cwt., down 2 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above two years ago.